

May 26, 2023



Re: Town River Clearing Project

The Taunton River Stewardship Council (TRSC) is seeking contractors with environmental planning and tree work experience to address several locations of instream wood within the Taunton River Watershed. This long-term project will focus on the communities of Halifax, Bridgewater, Middleboro, Raynham, Taunton, Dighton, Berkley, Freetown, Somerset, and Fall River. Our first project for your consideration is the Town River in Bridgewater, MA.

In recent years, we've been notified of several areas along the Town River that is inundated with channel spanning wood that prevents safe recreational passage and may impair fish passage. We acknowledge that instream wood is ultimately a benefit for the river ecosystem, providing habitat, bank stability, and river-channel stability. We also recognize that recreation and fish passage are important values within the Taunton River system. This fragile balance is why we are seeking proposals from qualified consultants to help us evaluate and assess these areas of channel spanning wood. Specifically, we are in need of a recreational enhancement plan that will include an assessment of each location and a location-specific plan of how to treat each instance, taking into consideration the myriad benefits that instream wood provides to the ecology of the river.

The Taunton River and its tributaries were federally designated by Congress as Wild and Scenic in 2009. With this formal designation, a local coordinating body called the Taunton River Stewardship Council (TRSC) was empowered with the responsibility to manage, protect, and enhance the Taunton River & tributaries. The TRSC is guided by a formal Taunton River Stewardship Plan, which identifies the major tenets on which the River was designated: Ecology & Biodiversity, Estuary, Fisheries, History & Archaeology, Agriculture, Recreation, and Scenery. The TRSC is comprised of members from local municipalities and nonprofit entities that agree to promote long-term protection of the Taunton River and tributaries. The TRSC also receives technical and financial resources from the National Park Service, the federal agency that administers Wild and Scenic Rivers in New England.

Please see the RFP attached and feel free to reach out if you have any questions about our needs and approach. You may also forward this to others who may be a good fit.

Please visit <https://www.tauntonriver.org/> and <https://www.nps.gov/orgs/1912/index.htm> to learn more about the Wild and Scenic Rivers program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gloria S. Bancroft".

Gloria Bancroft
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